

40. The gaming method of claim 39, further comprising, if said triggering event is present, initiating said bonus game.

41. The gaming method of claim 40, wherein said initiating said bonus game comprises initiating a bonus game of said first type.

42. The gaming method of claim 40, wherein said initiating said bonus game comprises initiating a bonus game of a second, different type.

43. The gaming method of claim 40, wherein said initiating said bonus game comprises:

assigning symbols to image locations of a bonus payline; and

determining whether one of a plurality of winning combinations of symbols is present in said bonus payline.

44. The gaming method of claim 43, wherein said assigning symbols comprises:

assigning symbols from a corresponding selected payline to said image symbols of said bonus payline;

permitting a player to select at least one image location at which a corresponding symbol is to be held; and

replacing said symbol at each unselected image location of said bonus payline with a randomly selected symbol.

45. The gaming method of claim 44, wherein said replacing comprises replacing said symbol at each unselected image location of said bonus payline with a randomly selected, previously unused symbol from said predetermined set.

46. The gaming method of claim 44, wherein said replacing comprises replacing said symbol at each unselected image location of said bonus payline with a randomly selected symbol from another set.

47. The gaming method of claim 39, wherein said determining whether one of said plurality of winning combinations of symbols is present comprises determining whether one of a plurality of winning combinations of symbols is present in at least one payline selected in response to placement of a wager thereon.

48. The gaming method of claim 40, wherein said initiating is effected responsive to placement of an additional wager.

49. The gaming method of claim 40, wherein said initiating is effected if a player chooses to play said bonus game in lieu of receiving said award if one of said plurality of winning combinations of symbols is present.

50. A gaming device, comprising:

at least one processor including:

a first logic circuit configured to, in a primary game, randomly assign symbols from a predetermined set to a plurality of image sites;

a second logic circuit configured to identify at least one selected payline;

a third logic circuit configured to evaluate whether a winning combination of symbols exists upon said at least one selected payline;

a fourth logic circuit configured to evaluate whether a first trigger event has occurred along at least one selected payline; and

a fifth logic circuit configured to evaluate whether a second trigger event has occurred at a predetermined or preselected trigger site of said array;

memory associated with said at least one processor;

at least one input element in communication with said at least one processor; and

a display in communication with said at least one processor.

51. The gaming device of claim 50, wherein said symbols comprise card symbols and said predetermined set comprises a digital deck of cards.

52. The gaming device of claim 50, wherein said symbols comprise slot machine symbols.

53. The gaming device of claim 50, wherein said at least one selected payline comprises a payline upon which a wager has been placed.

54. The gaming device of claim 50, wherein said winning combination of symbols comprises a winning poker hand.

55. The gaming device of claim 50, wherein said winning combination of symbols comprises at least predetermined number of like symbols or a combination of like symbols and wild symbols.

56. The gaming device of claim 50, wherein said first trigger event comprises the presence of a trigger symbol in said at least one selected payline.

57. The gaming device of claim 50, wherein said first trigger event comprises the presence of a predetermined or prespecified combination of symbols along said at least one selected payline.

58. The gaming device of claim 50, further comprising a sixth logic circuit configured to initiate a bonus game if said first trigger event has occurred along at least one selected payline.

59. The gaming device of claim 58, wherein said bonus game is similar in type to said primary game.

60. The gaming device of claim 50, wherein said second trigger event comprises the presence of a predetermined or preselected trigger card at said predetermined or preselected trigger site.

61. The gaming device of claim 50, further comprising a seventh logic circuit configured to increase an award by a predetermined or preselected amount if said second trigger event occurs.

62. The gaming device of claim 50, wherein said at least one processor, said memory, said at least one input element, and said display are contained within a single housing.

63. The gaming device of claim 50, wherein, following or concurrently with operation of said first logic circuit, said at least one processor is programmed to cause said display, by way signals transported along carrier waves, to show said array, including symbols at their respective, assigned image sites.

64. The gaming device of claim 63, wherein, following or concurrently with operation of said fourth logic circuit, if said first trigger event has occurred, said at least one processor is programmed to cause said display to depict said a bonus game.

65. The gaming device of claim 50, further comprising a communication component configured to facilitate communication between said at least one processor and at least one processor of at least one of another gaming device and a central computer.